THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b). Yes Sir. As on 31.12.1995, there were 399 Central Sector developmental projects costing Rs. 20 crores and above under implementation and are being monitored by the Department of Programme Implementation. Project-wise and ministry wise details of the 399 projects are given in the Quarterly Project Implementation Status Report for the quarter October-December, 1995. A copy of the report is available in the Parliament library.

(c) As on 31.12.1996, the cost of 138 projects had increased by 50.5% with respect to the latest approved cost. Among other factors of cost overrun the main reason is non-completion of projects in time.

(d) The original estimated cost and now anticipated cost of the projects are also given in the Quarterly Project Implementation Status Report for the quarter Oct.-Dec. 1995. Out of 399 projects 60 projects are being implemented with assistance from the foreign financial institutions.

[English]

Maintenance Jobs

4281. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Hon'ble Supreme Court has directed in its judgements for the abolition of Contract Labour System;

(b) if so, whether CPWD is the biggest department which has started getting the regular maintenance jobs of Government colonies done by awarding labour contracts; and

(c) if so, the time by which such directions are likely to be implemented in CPWD?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) No, Sir. The Hon'ble Supreme Court has only recommended that all Undertakings which are employing the contract Labour System in any process/operation or work which satisfies the factors mentioned in Clauses (a) to (d) of Section 10(2) of the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 should, on their own, discontinue the Contract Labour and absorb as many of the labour as is feasible as their direct employees.

(b) By and large, day to day maintenance activities are being got done by the CPWD through employees of the department. In certain exceptional cases, including those works which are of a seasonal or intermittent character, the maintenance works are got done by the CPWD through contract.

(c) The Ministry of Labour, which is the appropriate Government under the Act is obtaining the comments of all Departments and State Governments on the recommendation made by the Supreme Court. Based on the comments received a decision will be taken by the Ministry of Labour.

Wasteland Development

4282. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any scheme has been formulated to improve forestry and alkaline soil in wasteland and hilly areas in Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the districts selected for these schemes;

(d) the time by which these schemes are likely to be implemented and the acreade of land likely to be covered under these schemes in the State; and

(e) the number of families likely to be benefited through these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The State Government of Assam has not formulated any Scheme to improve forestry and alkaline soil in Wasteland or hilly areas in Assam.

(b) to (e). Question does not arise.

Oil Imports

4283. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA :
PROF. OMPAL SINGH NIDAR :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there had been 44.15 percent increase in Oil Imports for April-June, 1996 over the corresponding period of the previous year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for the increase?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c). The increase in oil imports during April-June 1996 over the corresponding period of the previous year was primarily due to increase in consumption of petroleum products, increase in crude oil processing in the country and lower production of indigenous crude